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*Problems in Furniture-Making.* By FRED D. CRAWSHAW. Peoria, Ill.: Manual Arts Press, 1906. Pp. 58. Paper cover.

This book is arranged in two parts: notes on the problems with pictorial illustrations, and working drawings. It is both an interesting collection of designs and helpful reference work from which to secure dimensions of simple furniture. To most instructors, the book presents little that is new. Its most marked feature being the attempt to gain large results without the essential outlay of time, material, and efficient workmanship. The most easily distinguished example of this type of construction is the "library chair," p. 23. There are however a number of quite useful designs. Seven pages are devoted to directions for getting out stock, making joints, finishing, etc. These notes are so brief that they would likely mislead a beginner, and contain little of value to others.

In the matter of design, some of the forms deserve criticism. The object appears to be to see what odd or uncommon shapes may be used without destroying the efficiency of the piece, rather than the artistic outlines, which should result from the structural form and use. It appears to be another attempt to make "useful things beautiful," rather than to make things so useful and so perfect structurally that they will of necessity be beautiful. These designs illustrate in a very forcible manner the results of certain schools which attempt to teach design while neglecting the structural details.

FRANK HENRY SELDEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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*Through France and the French Syntax: A Book of French Composition.*

By ROBERT LOUIS SANDERSON, assistant professor of French in Yale University. New York: Silver, Burdett & Co., 1906. Pp. 153. 65c.

All teachers of French hail with interest a new book of French composition, for new texts are constantly needed along this line. Professor Sanderson's book is based on an interesting plan. The material for translation is given in the guise of a journey through France. Much could be said to commend the proportion of space given to Paris and to the rest of France. Too many pupils have the impression that in France there is but Paris, and perhaps the Loire chateaux. A map is provided on which the itinerary may be followed, but it is confusing to find that the map shows the divisions into departments, while in the text the division into provinces is followed.

The notes are full and clear. The grammatical rules are given as needed, not according to a grammatical classification. This simplifies the daily lesson but makes it difficult to carry out any systematic topical grammar review. In the vocabulary we can commend the practice shown in the following entry: "Spring, *n.* (season), *printemps, m.*; (metal) *ressort, m.*; (water) *source, f.*" Less than a half-dozen typographical errors were noted; these in the vocabulary.

Professor Sanderson's book will be useful, both on the technical side for which it is intended, and in giving pupils a glimpse of the country whose language they are studying.

A. DE L. LEDUC

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